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The University of
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NEWS RELEASE

May 29, 2003

Contact: Greg Johnson, Montana Repertory Theatre, 243-5288.

ANNUAL MISSOULA COLONY TO BE HELD AT UM

MISSOULA –

A Tony Award-winning playwright heads the list of writers who will be on The University of Montana campus May 31-June 7 for the eighth Missoula Colony, a Gathering of Writers for Stage and Screen.

Produced by the Montana Repertory Theatre, the colony is an intensive workshop that brings world-renowned writers to UM for more than a week of activities.

Headlining this year's field of guests will be Arthur Kopit, Tony Award-winning author of the current Broadway hit "Nine." Kopit also has written other plays including "Indians," "Wings" and many more.

Other New York and Los Angeles playwrights on hand this year include James McLure, Roger Hedden, Stacy Swedeen and Ron Fitzgerald. They will join local writers for 10 days of script writing and analysis.

Public readings of the writers' works will be held at UM on the Montana Theatre stage afternoons and evenings during the week of May 31-June 7.

The first weekend will be the "Back to Basics" sessions where writers of all levels can work with Kopit, Hedden, McLure, Swedeen and Fitzgerald. The cost of the session is \$50 for the general public and \$30 for students. Staged readings will take place throughout the following

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week.

Also included in this year's events will be readings by finalists from the Lewis and Clark Project – plays inspired by the Corps of Discovery. Fifteen short plays written by Montana writers will be read during the week.

The acting company will consist of professional actors from Los Angeles and New York, as well as local talent and students from UM's drama/dance department.

Matinees will be held at 3 p.m. and evening performances get under way at 8 p.m. Admission to the readings is \$5. A pass to all readings can be purchased for \$25.

The event is sponsored by the Montana Repertory Theatre, UM and The Writers Guild Foundation Inc.

For more information on the Colony or to register, call Mary Ann Riddle at (406) 243-6809 or go to the Montana Rep Web site at www.montanarep.org.

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GJ
Local
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